



The Bonaire/Heineken Jazz Festival offers a line up of top international jazz artists in May

On Wednesday afternoon, Ronella Croes, General Manager of the Tourist Corporation Bonaire (TCB,) along with jazz fest organizer Guus Gerritsen announced the third annual Bonaire Heineken Jazz and Salsa Festival to take place Thursday, May 17 through Sunday, May 20th.

The four-day event is comprised of two days of free events, and two main concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings by famed international jazz artists for which there is an attendance fee. The cost of the events are nominal, with both nightly concerts only 30 NL Guilders or \$17.00 (U.S.) each, or 50 NL Antillean Guilders or \$28.57 (U.S.) for the two combined. A ticket for the Saturday concert includes a jazz workshop at Skol Di Musika with Joost Lijbaart and Gerardo Rosales in the morning.

There are ten jazz groups appearing over the four days, and Mr. Gerritsen mentioned three in particular that festival organizers are very excited to have on the bill. These are jazz impresarios of international repute; The Yuri Honing Trio (www.yurihoning.com) from Holland, Paoli Mejias Quintet (www.paolimejias.com) from Puerto Rico, and The W.E.S. Group, (www.het-herumusic.com) from the United States. Mr. Gerritsen acknowledged that the jazz groups featured during the festival show a definitive Latin/Caribbean influence, but that there is also the classic interpretive sound and something for all aficionados of jazz music. He also emphasized the delightful ambiance of the Bonaire festivals, where the concerts are conducted al fresco, on the beach, and that Bonaire has yet to attract overly large audiences, so the events are very cozy and relaxed, with perhaps only 500 in attendance.

Other artists and groups that will be performing during the four-day festival include Oswen "Chin" Behilia of Curacao, Gerardo Rosales Mongomania from Venezuela, Trio Jean Jacque Rojer of Holland, Effetuoso from Aruba, and various bands from Bonaire. The band of noted musicians from the Freewinds cruise ship will join Bonairean groups The Happy Band, The Stingrays, and special guests Scott Katzev from the U.S., Boy Janga from Bonaire, Franklin Granadillo of Aruba and Linda Anthony, a very popular vocalist from Bonaire.

The festival will officially open on Wednesday evening, May 16. with the art exhibition "Polyrhythmik" by the Suku Foundation at Bonaire's Kas di Arte with the theme: "Me, You, and the World," which will continue throughout the four days. There will be readings by poets from Bonaire and Aruba during the wine and cheese parties that accompany the free jazz performances by Effetuoso and others. The main concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings will take place on the beach of the Plaza Resort, and include a jam session at Little Havana afterwards. The weekend will finish with a flourish on Sunday at the Divi Flamingo Resort with a Jazz Brunch attended by all festival musicians and a sunset party in the evening at Bongo Beach with entertainment by the Freewinds Band.

For more information about the Heineken/Bonaire Jazz Festival and a full schedule of activities, assistance in reserving lodging, and to purchase tickets, visit their website: www.bonairejazz.com, or call the Tourist Corporation of Bonaire (599) 717-8322.